

## Chapter 4 – The VISTAs

**Capacity Building Associates:** The goal is to increase the capacity of faith-based and community organizations, and in particular, the ones dedicated to fighting poverty. The method is one-on-one partnerships providing training and technical assistance to Hoosier nonprofits all over the state.

**LaVera Butler** is a recent Returned Peace Corps Volunteer who served in eastern Uganda with a faith-based nongovernmental organization for the past two years. She is a former federal employee with the Corporation for National Service and has over three years of experiencing supporting nonprofits that sponsor AmeriCorps VISTA and Senior Corps Programs. She holds a Bachelor's and Master's in Public Administration from Stephen F. Austin State University and Nonprofit Management Certification from University of Texas at Austin.

**Monica Krause** is a recent University of Evansville graduate and a native of Fort Wayne, Monica will be focusing her efforts in the Northeastern part of the state. She has been actively involved in nonprofits through her church, university, and volunteer experiences, particularly through immersion programs focusing on direct service to the hungry and homeless in places like San Francisco, Washington DC, and New Orleans. After a study abroad program in East Africa, she became passionate about multicultural organizations serving refugees and immigrants. In the future, Monica hopes to have a career in nonprofits dealing with advocacy, research, and policy development.

**Alex Luboff** recently graduated from Indiana University at Bloomington, Alex will be focusing on the Southwestern region of the state. In addition to being a volunteer since he was 5, Alex has also worked for nonprofits across the country, from the Montana Rockies to Capitol Hill in Washington D.C. At IU, he was President of his community service fraternity, represented IU as a student ambassador, worked for various causes as a student activist, and served on several campus committees. Alex hopes to pursue a career in grassroots nonprofit management and public advocacy.

**Julie Singer** is a recent graduate of Indiana University at Bloomington and a Carmel resident, Julie will focus her efforts in Southeastern Indiana where she has personal and social connections. She would like to pursue a career in public affairs and social policy.

**Volunteer Outreach Associate:** The goal is to enhance Indiana's statewide volunteer network infrastructure to better address community needs and help organizations fight poverty. The focus is to promote and facilitate skills-based volunteerism and volunteerism among Hoosiers 55 and older, and to help nonprofits and corporate volunteer programs connect to volunteer resources.

**Kristin Owens** is a California native and a graduate of Brigham Young University, Kristin worked as a journalist before moving to the Midwest and dedicating herself to VISTA. She is passionate about service and can be found volunteering three days a week at several local nonprofits. She hopes to continue working in the Indianapolis not-for-profit community after completing her VISTA term.